

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1610

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SP, US
SUBJ: NOMINATION FOR POSITION OF CHIEF MAAG SPAIN

REF: STATE 044849

1. BEFORE GIVING APPROVAL FOR ASSIGNMENT OF MAJ. GEN. NASH AS CHIEF JUSMG/MAAG (AND I HAVE HEARD NOTHING BUT MOST FAVORABLE COMMENT ABOUT NASH), I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REACH A DECISION ON THE STAFFING OF THE NEW POSITION (CALLED FOR BY THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION) OF U.S. CO-DIRECTOR OF THE COMBINED MILITARY COORDINATION AND PLANNING STAFF.

2. GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF AN AIR FORCE MAJOR GENERAL AT TORREJON (16TH AIR FORCE DEPUTY COMMANDER), AND ADDING AN AIR FORCE GENERAL OFFICE AT JUSMG/MAAG, THERE EXISTS A POSSIBILITY THAT FILLING THE COMBINED STAFF BILLET COULD LEAVE US WITH THREE AIR FORCE GENERAL OFFICERS IN MADRID, WHICH I BELIEVE WOULD NOT BE DESIREABLE. I WOULD NOT OBJECT TO PLACING AN AIR FORCE OFFICER AT JUSMG/MAAG IF, FOR EXAMPLE, AN ARMY OFFICER COULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE COMBINED STAFF, PERHAPS WITH A NAVAL OFFICER AS HIS DEPUTY. THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID FOR PLACING AN ARMY OFFICER IN THIS POSITION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE VERY IMPORTANT ROLE THE SPANISH ARMY WILL PLAY IN THE PERIOD AHEAD, BOTH IN SPAIN ITSELF AND WITH RESPECT TO AN EVENTUAL SPANISH DECISION ON JOINING NATO.

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3. IT IS ALSO MY IMPRESSION THAT THE SPANISH ENVISAGE THE

COMBINED STAFF AS A SEPARATE ENTITY FROM OTHER ELEMENTS IN THE
NEW STRUCTURE, ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE ITS
OWN FULL-TIME CO-DIRECTORS.

4. AS DECISION ON THESE MATTERS WILL AFFECT MY VIEWS ON NASH
ASSIGNMENT, I SHOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST COORDINATED
COMMENT ON ABOVE.
STABLER

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